



LADY K AND THE KINGS OF SWING



Deeply entrenched in swing, immersed in the history of their craft and with years of experience as veteran jazz musicians, Lady K and the Kings of Swing is a 17-piece Frank Sinatra-style big band recreating the sounds of Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, Count Basie, Gershwin, Kenton, Sinatra and beyond.

Headed by saxophonist Kaye Leedham, the San Francisco-based Kings of Swing exude the excitement and energy found in the tradition of historic big bands, but with a modern twist on the classics, creating a progressive and original sound. Leedham thoughtfully chooses charts showcasing her band; “I choose songs that speak to me, that have interesting chord changes for a soloist to work with, and that have a sub-melody or story that wants to be told. I’m in love with old classics; Gershwin, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lorenz and Hart, Cole Porter and Ellington. They had a true sense of melody that is epic and timeless. And these classics form the perfect canvas for each soloist to tell their story.”

Bandleader Leedham typically chats with the audience between tunes, sharing short anecdotes about the music and the original artists. The performances are a fun, historical tribute that guests walk away from having learned something about the music they did not know before.

In describing the way the band works, Leedham says, “I think the band has come into its own in the way that good friends become accustomed to each other. There's this tangible energy in the room when we run a tune down well as a band, and the soloist pulls all of us into the story. And I think the soloists really do have the horsepower to tell their stories.”

There are some extraordinary musical pedigrees in the band, and there is no lack for musical talent. In addition to being some of the most talented instrumentalists in the Bay Area, well over half of the musicians in the band are music educators and professors.

Members of the band have performed with such outstanding headliner entertainers as Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Woody Herman, Louie Bellson, Tony Bennett, Joe Williams, Sammy Davis Jr., Ella Fitzgerald, Mel Torme, Nancy Wilson, Natalie Cole, Guy Lombardo, Peggy Lee, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis band, Earl Hines, Paul Anka, Diane Schurr, Tex Beneke, and Phil Woods.

Leedham wants to be sure to give credit the musical team she assembled. “It's a top notch band, and between recording/mixing engineers Bruce Mishkit and Eric Dannewitz, and mastering engineer Lincoln Adler, the band was in good hands from a technical aspect. The CD is a real hot house of standards, in a live, sizzling performance,”

In closing Leedham says, “The band is not about me; it's about the alchemy of the group's creative energy that makes this team exceptional. For most of us in the group, life without this music would create an unbearable void. It is a privilege to be a part of this celebration of big band music.”

RADIO ADD DATE

January 19, 2010

RADIO TRACKING/PUBLICIST

Kari Gaffney, Kari-On Productions
706.993.2223/kari@karigaffney.com
www.karigaffney.com

SUGGESTED TRACKS

All Tracks Radio Friendly

ELECTRONIC FLASH KIT

www.karionpresskits.com/ladyk/ladyk.html

LABEL

Kayjazz Productions

RETAIL OUTLETS

CDBaby, iTunes, Amazon

LATEST RELEASE

This CD is a compilation of classics with a contemporary twist. Cole Porter, Gershwin, Rodgers and Hart and more; these arrangements lovingly wink back in time to their original composers. As stewards of Big Band Jazz, you can hear their love for this music in every track.

PERSONNEL

Art Dougherty (alto sax, clarinet)
Mike Young (alto sax, clarinet)
Fred Glaski (alto sax)
Eric Dannewitz (tenor sax, flute)
Kaye Leedham (tenor sax, flute)
Bruce Saxton (bari sax)
Ron Wetzel (trombone)
Van Hughes (trombone)
Alan Andreasen (trombone)
Andre Hockett (bass trombone)
Mack Horton (trumpet, flugelhorn)
John DeBoer (trumpet, flugelhorn)
Ken Brock (trumpet)
Stuart Yasaki (trumpet, flugelhorn)
Mark Rossi (piano)
Julianne George (bass)
Ken Bergmann (percussion)
Tim Acosta and Dan Fava (trumpet)
Dale Head (vocals)

